

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT LS-496

2 AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

3

4 IN THE MATTER OF THE) DOCKET NO.
 APPLICATION OF TUCSON ELECTRIC) L-00000C-26-0125-00261
 5 POWER COMPANY IN CONFORMANCE)
 WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF) LS CASE NO. 261
 6 A.R.S. § 40-360 ET SEQ., FOR A)
 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL)
 7 COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE) PREFILING CONFERENCE
 138 KILOVOLT (KV) SANTA RITA)
 8 CONNECTION TRANSMISSION LINE)
 PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE)
 9 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 138 KV)
 TRANSMISSION LINE ORIGINATING)
 10 AT THE EXISTING SONORAN)
 SUBSTATION (SECTION 2,)
 11 TOWNSHIP 16 S, RANGE 14 E),)
 AND TERMINATING AT THE PLANNED)
 12 SANTA RITA SUBSTATION)
 (SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 17 S,)
 13 RANGE 14 E), EACH LOCATED)
 WITHIN PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA.)
 14)

15 At: Phoenix, Arizona

16 Date: April 7, 2026

17 Filed: April 27, 2026

18 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

19 (Pages 1 through 15)

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled and
2 numbered matter came on regularly to be heard before the
3 Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting
4 Committee, commencing at 2:01 p.m. on April 7, 2026, with
5 all participants appearing via videoconference.

6

7 BEFORE: ADAM STAFFORD, Chairman

8

9 APPEARANCES:

10 For the Applicant:

11 MEGHAN H. GRABEL
12 ELIAS ANCHARSKI
13 Osborn Maledon
14 2929 North Central
15 21st Floor
16 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

15

16 ALSO PRESENT:

17 Megan Hill, TEP
18 Christopher Ortiz y Pino, TEP
19 Samantha Egan, TEP
20 Tod Brewer, assistant to Chairman Stafford

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1 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Let's go on the
2 record.

3 Now is the time set for the prefiling
4 conference for the Santa Rita connection project.

5 Let's start with appearances. Ms. Grabel?

6 MS. GRABEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Actually, Mr. Ancharski is going to take the lead on this
8 prefiling conference. So I'll turn it over to him.

9 MR. ANCHARSKI: Good -- good afternoon,
10 Mr. Chairman. Eli Ancharski on behalf of the applicant
11 TEP. With me from my firm is Ms. Meghan Grabel. Also on
12 the call is Ms. Megan Hill and Sam Egan, both in-house
13 counsel for TEP. We also have Mr. Chris Ortiz y Pino, the
14 project manager for outreach and engagement on this
15 project.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: And Mr. Clark Bryner is
17 lurking in the background.

18 MR. ANCHARSKI: Always lurking around.

19 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Has there been
20 much public interest so far on this project?

21 MR. ANCHARSKI: Not so far, particularly in
22 way of opposition. There was a robust public outreach
23 effort where the company engaged the community, but
24 nothing -- nothing substantial in terms of opposition.

25 CHMN. STAFFORD: All right. And I see you

1 have four prehearing exhibits. Can you describe those for
2 us, please.

3 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes. So Prehearing
4 Exhibit 1 is a map of the project that shows the two
5 routes that the applicant is requesting approval of.

6 Map Number 2 shows a proposed notice of
7 hearing sign. As you will -- as you will note we still
8 need the docket number for that, but that will be the
9 physical signage that's posted out in the vicinity of the
10 project.

11 Prefiling Exhibit Number 3 is a map of the
12 notice of hearing sign locations. So those are the
13 various locations around the project area where the
14 applicant intends to post physical signage.

15 And then finally Exhibit 4 is the proposed
16 notice of hearing that we prepared for your signature
17 once -- once the docket's opened.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. We're going to
19 need a Word version of the notice of hearing. When can
20 you get that to us?

21 MR. ANCHARSKI: I can do that right after
22 this call.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Excellent.

24 And let's see. When are you going to need
25 the notice of hearing for your publication deadlines?

1 MR. ANCHARSKI: So the first notice is --
2 We're planning to publish April 25th in the Arizona Daily
3 Star.

4 Chris, do you happen to know when that
5 notice is needed?

6 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: So in order to make 30
7 days prior to the hearing it must be published no later
8 than April 25th.

9 MR. ANCHARSKI: Sorry, Chris. To confirm,
10 how long does the newspaper need to -- to publish that?
11 Do you happen to know?

12 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: I think two days in
13 advance is how long (indecipherable).

14 (Reporter clarification.)

15 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: Of the date of
16 publication. So the 23rd, April 23rd.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: What day is that? Let's
18 see. It's a Thursday.

19 What's -- what's the anticipated file date?

20 MR. ANCHARSKI: We plan to file April 17th.
21 So that's not this upcoming Friday, but the following
22 Friday.

23 CHMN STAFFORD: Well, then I think we can
24 get it to you long before the 23rd.

25 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yeah. I was going to ask.

1 Obviously the sooner -- the sooner the better is -- is
2 helpful when getting these newspaper notices out. So,
3 yeah, as soon as possible on that. Thank you.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So you've got the
5 sign locations. That's in your Prefiling Exhibit 3.

6 MR. ANCHARSKI: Correct.

7 CHMN. STAFFORD: Seven signs. Okay.

8 And then you have got a project website for
9 this well?

10 MR. ANCHARSKI: That's correct, yes.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: And what kind of social
12 media outreach are you doing for the project and for the
13 notice of hearing?

14 MR. ANCHARSKI: So the company intends to
15 use Facebook I think May 18th through the 26th.

16 Is that correct, Chris? Is there anything
17 else additional on social media?

18 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: That's correct. It will
19 be on Facebook and Instagram.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: And I believe you are going
21 to have the documents, the application, transcripts, and
22 the procedural order, all those things put at two public
23 library locations. Is that correct?

24 MR. ANCHARSKI: That's correct,
25 Mr. Chairman. So the Sahuarita Library and the Conrad

1 Joyner Green Valley Library, study area.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So what are the
3 affected jurisdictions for this project?

4 MR. ANCHARSKI: So for this project the
5 affected jurisdictions are the Arizona State Land
6 Department, the City of Tucson, Pima County, and the Town
7 of Sahuarita.

8 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So obviously
9 notice by certified mail to the Commission. Correct?

10 MR. ANCHARSKI: Correct.

11 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So it looks like
12 we're doing the evidentiary hearing at the Desert Diamond
13 Casino Conference Center in Tucson.

14 MR. ANCHARSKI: Correct.

15 CHMN. STAFFORD: Start day is Tuesday
16 because the 25th is Memorial Day; right?

17 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. How many days do
19 you anticipate the hearing lasting? I have got it noticed
20 through Friday, but surely it won't take that long, will
21 it?

22 MR. ANCHARSKI: No, I don't -- I don't
23 believe we anticipate it will take that long. Obviously,
24 you know, subject to the tour -- We do have a tour planned
25 for -- it would be that Wednesday morning. So obviously

1 that would probably take up half a day. Beyond that, I
2 mean, probably on our typical schedule, unless there is an
3 intervenor. So potentially by the end of the Wednesday,
4 or maybe early Thursday.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Do you -- do you
6 anticipate any intervention?

7 MR. ANCHARSKI: Chris, have you heard
8 anything?

9 As of this morning we hadn't heard anything
10 about intervention.

11 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: No, I've heard nothing at
12 this point.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So have a plan
14 for the tour by the time of the prehearing conference. If
15 we do it it will be that Wednesday morning.

16 Now, for lodging for the out-of-town
17 committee members, you'll have them there at the Desert
18 Diamond Casino as well?

19 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, that's correct.

20 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. Now, make sure you
21 have enough rooms for each member, the chairman, and the
22 court reporter. We'll find out if any are going to attend
23 virtually.

24 I do know, and I don't know if you're aware
25 of this or not, but Member Kryder has resigned from the

1 committee. So you won't be needing to book a room for
2 him.

3 MR. ANCHARSKI: That's a shame. He will be
4 missed.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And Tod, what is
6 the date we're setting for the prehearing conference?

7 MR. BREWER: We have this scheduled for
8 May the 19th at 2:00, Mr. Chairman.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: Now, is there any related
10 litigation or disputes for this project?

11 MR. ANCHARSKI: No, sir. Nothing at this
12 time.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. All right. So you
14 said you can file the application on April 17th; correct?

15 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes.

16 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. I'll do a
17 procedural order.

18 Make sure you have a draft CEC by the time
19 of the prehearing conference.

20 Public comment, we'll do that at 5:30 p.m.
21 starting on Tuesday. Do you know if any public officials
22 are going to want to make comment on this project?

23 MR. ANCHARSKI: Chris, are you aware of any
24 public officials? I don't believe so at this time, but --

25 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: I don't believe so at

1 this time.

2 MR. ANCHARSKI: But as always we, you know,
3 would -- would look out for letters of support as well and
4 file those, you know, at the appropriate time with
5 exhibits. So that -- that could be where we see public
6 comment from officials.

7 CHMN STAFFORD: And so is there any federal,
8 state, county, city or town permits required for this
9 project?

10 MR. ANCHARSKI: Not for the jurisdictional
11 project. I will note that the Santa Rita Substation,
12 which is kind of part of this but not jurisdictional, does
13 need a power -- a power substation permit from Pima
14 County.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: And where is that in the
16 process?

17 MR. ANCHARSKI: Chris, do you have any
18 updates on that?

19 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: It has not been started
20 yet.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So it hasn't been
22 filed yet?

23 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: That's correct.

24 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So I imagine prior to
25 the hearing you'll have some idea where the substation is

1 going to go.

2 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: Yes, sir.

3 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes. There is a proposed
4 location, you know, shown on exhibits and things like that
5 that we'll certainly get into and discuss.

6 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And so I assume
7 you'll be having Peaks Audio for the hearing.

8 MR. ANCHARSKI: Correct.

9 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. And they will do
10 the standard tablets for the exhibits for all the members?
11 Excellent.

12 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes, sir.

13 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. So I'm assuming that
14 the filing fee for this application was a thousand
15 dollars.

16 MR. ANCHARSKI: That's correct. Yes.

17 CHMN STAFFORD: Okay. The Commission's
18 obligated by statute to pay the cost of reporting and
19 transcribing any application hearing as well as the actual
20 and necessary expenses incurred by the committee members
21 in connection with their participation in the committee
22 meeting from that filing fee.

23 The costs and fees exceeding the amount of
24 the fee may, with the applicant's consent, be charged by
25 the committee -- be incurred by the committee and charged

1 to the applicant.

2 Does the applicant consent to pay the
3 commission those costs in excess of the filing fee?

4 MR. ANCHARSKI: Yes.

5 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Ms. Hill, you
6 had a question. Thought I saw a hand raised there a
7 second.

8 MS. HILL: Yeah, it was an accidental click.
9 I'm sorry.

10 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. So we'll do the
11 standard three-day turnaround of transcripts.

12 Is there anything else we need to cover?

13 MR. ANCHARSKI: I don't believe there is
14 anything else at this time.

15 CHMN STAFFORD: Tod, anything else?

16 MR. BREWER: Nothing from our end,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 CHMN STAFFORD: All right. Jill, do you
19 have everything you need?

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, I do.

21 CHMN STAFFORD: Excellent.

22 Well, I'll look forward to getting the Word
23 version of the notice of hearing and the application on
24 the 17th. So I'll see you all again at the prehearing
25 conference on May 19th.

1 MS. GRABEL: Thank you.

2 CHMN STAFFORD: All right.

3 MR. ANCHARSKI: Thank you.

4 CHMN STAFFORD: With that we are adjourned.

5 MR. ORTIZ y PINO: Thank you.

6 MR. ANCHARSKI: Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, at 2:12 p.m. the proceedings

8 ended.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
2 COUNTY OF YAVAPAI)

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14 Dated at Prescott, Arizona, this 9th day of April,
15 2026.

Jill Marnell

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